

We claim:

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1. A method of establishing communication between a first application and a second application, the second application executing on a platform, the method comprising:
forwarding a notify message to the second application, receipt of the notify message by the second application causing the second application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application;
the first application ascertaining path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application; and
the first application and second application establishing a path between the first application and the second application after the path data is ascertained by the first application and the second application.
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2. The method as defined by claim 1 further comprising:
forwarding a reply message to the first application, the reply message notifying the first application that the second application is executing.
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3. The method as defined by claim 2 wherein the first application ascertains the path data after receipt of the reply message.
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4. The method as defined by claim 1 further comprising:
the first application forwarding a first ready message to the second application;
the second application forwarding a second ready message to the first application;
forwarding messages between the first and second application via the path after receipt of each ready message.
5. The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the first application and the second application establish a path by ascertaining the path data from a configuration file that includes the path data.

6. The method as defined by claim 5 wherein the path data is retrieved from the configuration file by the first application and the second application.

7. The method as defined by claim 5 wherein the path data is retrieved from the configuration file by a path function that forwards a path message to the first application and the second application, the path message including the path data.

8. The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the notify message is generated by a monitoring function that monitors the platform, the monitoring function responsively generating the notify message upon detecting that the first application has been added to the platform.

9. The method as defined by claim 8 wherein the first application is considered to have been added to the platform when it is loaded into a volatile memory device on the platform.

10. The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the second application is considered to be executing after the second application is initialized.

11. The method as defined by claim 1 wherein an application is considered to be executing after it is initialized on the platform and before it stops running.

12. The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the path includes a plurality of channels wherein each channel includes an associated handler function, each handler function processing messages in its assigned channel in a uniform manner.

13. An apparatus for establishing communication between a first application and a second application, the second application executing on a platform, the apparatus comprising:

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a first output that forwards a notify message to the second application, receipt of the notify message by the second application causing the second application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application;

a first controller that controls the first application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application; and

a second controller that controls the first application and second application to establish a path between the first application and the second application after the path data is ascertained by the first application and the second application.

14. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 further comprising:

a second output that forwards a reply message to the first application, the reply message notifying the first application that the second application is executing.

15. The apparatus as defined by claim 14 wherein the first application ascertains the path data after receipt of the reply message.

16. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 further comprising:

a third controller that controls the first application to forward a first ready message to the second application;

a fourth controller that controls the second application to forward a second ready message to the first application, messages being forwarded between the first and second application via the path after receipt of each ready message.

17. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 wherein the second controller includes a path data ascertainment that ascertains the path data from a configuration file that includes the path data.

18. The apparatus as defined by claim 17 wherein the path data is retrieved from the configuration file by the first application and the second application.

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19. The apparatus as defined by claim 17 wherein the path data is retrieved from the configuration file by a path function that forwards a path message to the first application and the second application, the path message including the path data.

5 20. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 wherein the notify message is generated by a monitoring function that monitors the platform, the monitoring function responsively generating the notify message upon detecting that the first application has been added to the platform.

10 21. The apparatus as defined by claim 20 wherein the first application is considered to have been added to the platform when it is loaded into a volatile memory device on the platform.

15 22. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 wherein the second application is considered to be executing after the second application is initialized.

20 23. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 wherein an application is considered to be executing after it is initialized on the platform and before it stops running.

25 24. The apparatus as defined by claim 13 wherein the path includes a plurality of channels wherein each channel includes an associated handler function, each handler function processing messages in its assigned channel in a uniform manner.

25 25. A computer program product for use on a computer system for establishing communication between a first application and a second application, the second application executing on a platform, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, the computer readable program code including:

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program code for forwarding a notify message to the second application, receipt of the notify message by the second application causing the second application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application;

program code for controlling the first application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application; and

program code for controlling the first application and second application to establish a path between the first application and the second application after the path data is ascertained by the first application and the second application.

26. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 further comprising:

program code for forwarding the reply message to the first application, the reply message notifying the first application that the second application is executing.

27. The computer program product as defined by claim 26 wherein the first application ascertains the path data after receipt of the reply message.

28. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 further comprising:

program code for controlling the first application to forward a first ready message to the second application;

program code for controlling the second application to forward a second ready message to the first application;

program code for forwarding messages between the first and second application via the path after receipt of each ready message.

29. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 wherein the program code for controlling the first application and the second application comprises program code for ascertaining the path data from a configuration file that includes the path data.

30. The computer program product as defined by claim 29 wherein the path data is retrieved from the configuration file by the first application and the second application.

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31. The computer program product as defined by claim 29 wherein the path data is retrieved from the configuration file by a path function that forwards a path message to the first application and the second application, the path message including the path data.

5 32. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 wherein the notify message is generated by a monitoring function that monitors the platform, the monitoring function responsively generating the notify message upon detecting that the first application has been added to the platform.

10 33. The computer program product as defined by claim 32 wherein the first application is considered to have been added to the platform when it is loaded into a volatile memory device on the platform.

15 34. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 wherein the second application is considered to be executing after the second application is initialized.

35. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 wherein an application is considered to be executing after it is initialized on the platform and before it stops running.

20 36. The computer program product as defined by claim 25 wherein the path includes a plurality of channels wherein each channel includes an associated handler function, each handler function processing messages in its assigned channel in a uniform manner.

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